

April 14, 2015 CDC Ebola Response Update

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last month marked the one-year anniversary of the Ebola outbreak, and although the situation has improved in West Africa, there is still more work for CDC to do. Guinea and Sierra Leone continue to report Ebola cases. The latest outbreak numbers show that West Africa has had more than twenty-five thousand cases and more than ten thousand people have died. Getting to zero is no small feat when responding to the largest outbreak in the agency's history, but CDC won't stop working until there are no new cases of Ebola.

Efforts are beginning to pay off. According to the World Health Organization's situation report from April 8, Sierra Leone and Guinea had 30 new confirmed cases of Ebola in the week leading up to April 5. To stop the spread in Guinea, the president, Alpha Conde, declared a 45-day reinforcement of emergency measures in five regions, which limits movement. As part of this health emergency, Guinea scheduled a three day door-to-door campaign to get the community involved in surveillance activities and identify suspected cases. There have not been any new confirmed cases of Ebola in Liberia since the last known patient died on March 27.

Investigations into the origin of this case are ongoing; however, 332 contacts of the deceased patient have been identified and are currently being monitored. While the decline in new confirmed cases is promising, we must continue to fight Ebola until we get to zero new cases.

As we quickly learned in September 2014, when the first case in the United States occurred, we are not immune to Ebola. While Ebola poses very little risk to people in the U.S., that case reminded us that infectious diseases have no boundaries and could be just a plane ride away. That's why CDC protects America by helping to fight diseases where they start.

CDC's international response efforts include working with the local ministries of health and other partners to stop the spread of Ebola in affected countries. Our collaboration with these organizations also helps strengthen the public health infrastructure and response capabilities in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Since the beginning of the response, over nineteen hundred CDC employees have deployed to West Africa and nearly three thousand have battled Ebola from CDC's Atlanta headquarters. In the United States, CDC continues to work with hospitals to ensure that they're prepared for potential Ebola cases, as well as to educate the American public about Ebola.

CDC is committed, through its international and domestic work, to helping the affected countries in West Africa get to, and stay at, zero.

For more information and resources, please visit cdc.gov/ebola.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.